

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 190930Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9243

INFO USUN NEW YORK 659

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX,PFOR,ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN REACTION TO MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REFS: A. STATE 203685 B. JAKARTA 12382

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: IN SEPARATE CONVERATIONS  
OCTOBER 18 GENERAL SUMITRO AND FOREIGN DEPARTMENT MID-  
EAST EXPERT KADRI EXPRESSED IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERING DEGREES  
CONCERN THAT CONTINUATION OF MID-EAST WAR WILL INCREASINGLY  
HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON US-INDONESIAN RELATIONS. I  
BELIEVE THAT, PERHAPS TO GREATER DEGREE THAN IS PERHAPS  
GENERALLY RECOGNIZED, INDONESIANS FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT  
WAR, AND I SUBSCRIBE TO SUMITRO'S AND KADRI'S CONCERN  
THAT CONTINUED FIGHTING WILL RISK DAMAGE TO US-INDONESIAN  
RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY

2. WHEN I SAW GENERAL SUMITRO OCTOBER 18 HE ASSURED ME  
THAT THERE WILL BE NO ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE  
MID-EAST WAR SINCE THESE ARE BANNED, BUT THAT THERE  
MAY BE SMALL GROUPS COMING TO THE EMBASSY TO PRESENT  
PETITIONS (SUCH AS OCCURRED WHILE I WAS VISITING SUMITRO -  
REF B). SUMITRO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE US SHOULD DO  
EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO END THE MIDDLE EAST WAR SINCE THE  
HOSTILITIES ARE SURE TO AFFECT ADVERSELY INDONESIA'S RELATIONS  
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WITH THE US AND WESTERN WORLD AS WELL AS CAUSING DAMAGE

TO US DETENTE WITH COMMUNIST POWERS.

3. SUMITRO'S REMARKS WERE ECHOED IN A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION I HAD OCTOBER 17 WITH FORMER AND PRESENT AMBASSADORS TO THE US SOEDJATMOKO AND THAJEB (THE LATTER HAD JUST SPOKEN WITH SUMITRO), WITH SOEDJATMOKO PARTICULARLY STRESSING THAT THE LONGER THE WAR IN THE MID-EAST CONTINUES, THE MORE ADVERSE WILL BE THE EFFECTS ON US-INDONESIAN RELATIONS.

4. ALSO ON OCTOBER 18 ACTING DCM CALLED ON CHIEF OF MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS SECTION OF FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, DR. MARTONO KADRI, FOR TOUR D'HORIZON ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, TO DELIVER TEXTS OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY AND DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AND TO SUM UP MILITARY SITUATION.

5. KADRI SAID THAT EVEN MODERATE AND PRO-AMERICAN INDONESIANS COULD NOT ACCEPT THE NEED FOR US AIRLIFT OF SUPPLIES TO A COUNTRY WHOSE FORCES WERE SHELLING THE OUTSRTS OF DAMUSCUS. ACTING DCM, DRAWING ON REF A, EXPLAINED THAT MAIN THRUST OF US POLICY HAD BEEN TO SEEK TO END HOSTILITIES AND PRODUCE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE TO ALL BUT NOTED THAT WE COULD NOT LET MASSIVE SOVIET AIRLIFT GO UNANSWERED INDEFINITELY. OUR ACTIONS WERE INTENDED TO INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF A SATISFACTORY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

6. KADRI EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR US GOALS BUT SAID WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY WAS NEAR ZERO WITH MOST INDONESIANS AND ESPECIALLY WITH POLITICALLY ACTIVE MOSLEMS. HE SAID THESE MILITANT MOSLEMS, WHO HAD MANY GRIEVANCES OF LONG STANDING AGAINST GOI AND WERE CURRENTLY FRUSTRATED AND ENRAGED BY MARRIAGE BILL, WERE MORE INCLINED THAN EVER TO ATTACK US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT WIDE-SPREAD ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS WERE LIKELY, ESPECIALLY IF THE FIGHTING CONTINUED.

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7. (NOTE: KADRI, WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK TO NAC AND RECENTLY SERVED AS DCM IN DAR ES SALAAM, MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION AS A REASONABLE PROFESSIONAL WHO KNOWS HIS AREA WELL, AND WE BELIEVE HE WILL BE A USEFUL WORKING-LEVEL ASSET IF EVER WE HAVE TO SEEK INDONESIAN GOOD OFFICES OF SUPPORT FOR SOME FUTURE AMERICAN OR UN INITIATIVE.)

8. COMMENT: FEELINGS ARISING AS A RESULT OF THE GROWING CONSCIOUSNESS THAT FELLOW MOSLEMS ARE BEING KILLED BY AMERICAN WEAPONRY EXIST HERE IN A GREATER DEGREE THAN ONE MIGHT IMAGINE, AND A NUMBER OF OUR FRIENDS ARE BEGINNING TO PROTEST TO US PRIVATELY. ALTHOUGH MOST INDONESIANS ARE RELATIVELY MODERATE AS MOSLEMS, WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THEY ARE EASILY INFLUENCED BY THIRD WORLD ISSUES WITH WHICH THEY CAN IDENTIFY. THEREFORE, IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT IF THE MID-EAST WAR SHOULD GO ON AND INEVITABLY WORSEN, IT WILL BE MORE AND MORE LIKELY THAT THIS WILL GIVE US TROUBLE WITH THE INDONESIANS.

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